

RASL System Overview

Design Goal: To develop an airborne mission-adaptable instrument capable of high performance day and night time measurements of water vapor, aerosol, and cloud properties

Base-line instrument measurements (using a tripled Nd:YAG transmission source) :

- | | | |
|------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Raman channels | { | 1. 408 nm: Water Vapor |
| | | 2. 402 nm: Liquid Water |
| | | 3. 387 nm: Nitrogen |
| | | 4. 375 nm: Oxygen |
| Aerosol channels | { | 5. 355 nm: Total |
| | | 6. 355 nm: S-polarization |
| | | 7. 355 nm: P-polarization |

RASL Instrument Diagram

Optical Transmission (Red)

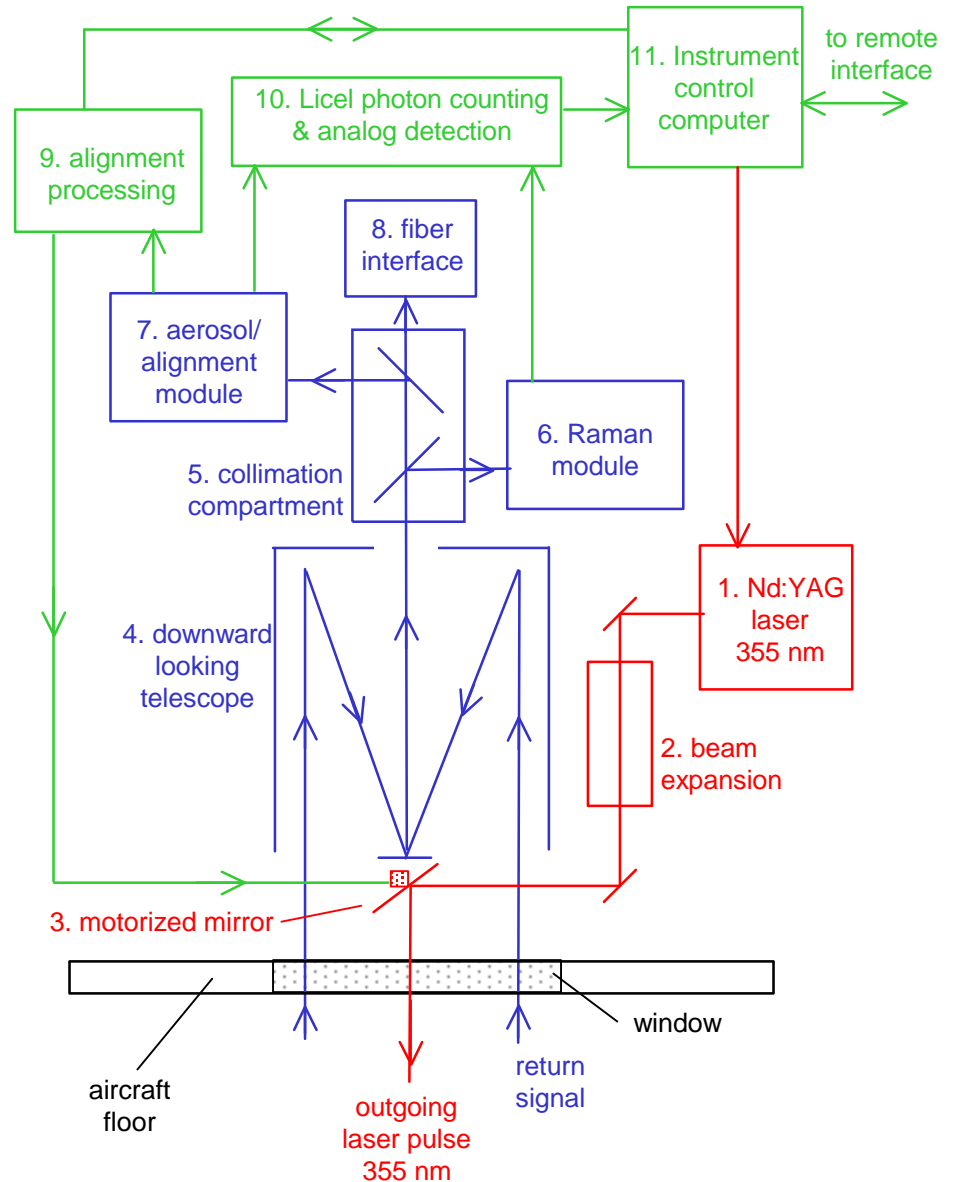
1. Nd:YAG source, > 15 Watts (50 Hz, 300 mJ UV pulses)
2. Beam expander, 40 mm diam output, 125 micro-rad divergence
3. Motorized transmit mirror

Optical Receiver (Blue)

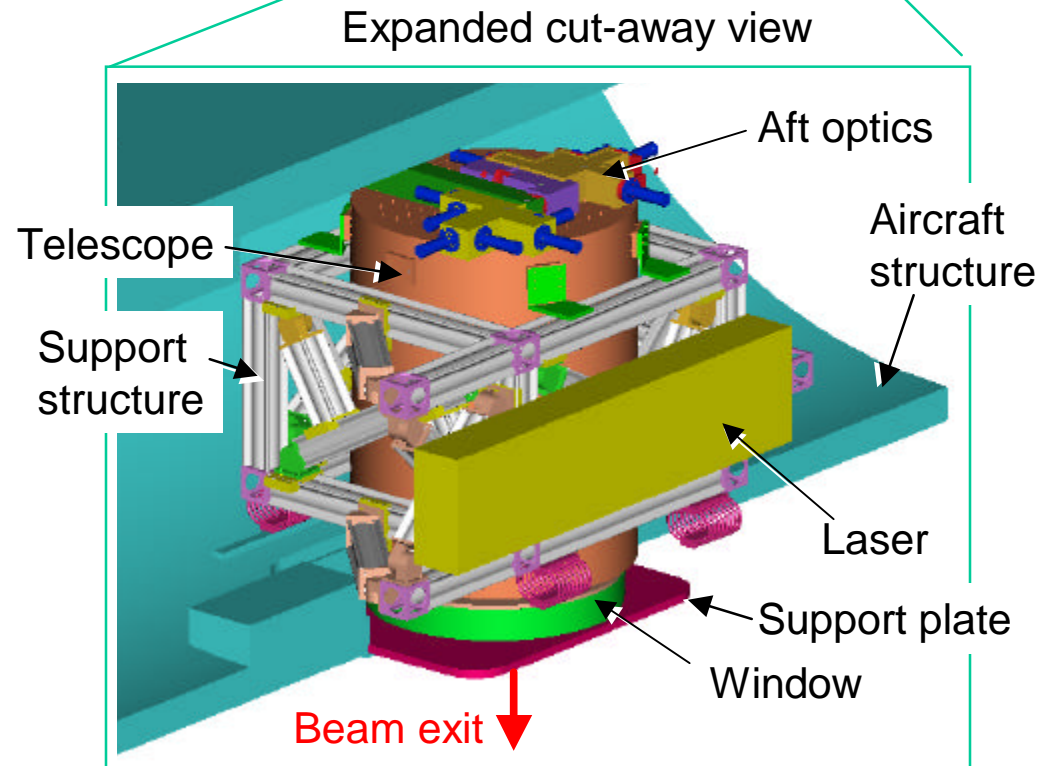
4. Downward looking telescope, 61 cm diam. Dall-Kirkam design, fl= 323 cm
5. Collimation compartment, adjustable FOV & focus, dichroic beam splits
6. Raman Module, Water Vapor, Liquid Water, Nitrogen, & Oxygen detection
7. Aerosol/Alignment module, Total, S & P polarization detection
8. Fiber interface for spectrometer/etalon option

Data Acquisition & Control (green)

9. Alignment signal processing and feedback to motorized mirror
10. Licel acquisition of PMT signals from Aerosol and Raman modules
11. Main instrument CPU to control



RASL Implementation on the NASA DC-8



Aft Optics Key Design Criteria

- Measurements:

Raman: H₂O liquid&vapor, N₂, Aerosol, & Oxygen

Aerosol: Total intensity, S & P polarizations with hi/low power splits

Interface for spectrometer/etalon

- Adjustable Focus (2 km to Infinity) & field of view (0.2 to 1 mrad)
- High degree of collimation (< 14 mrad) needed for bandpass filters
- Image stability at detector for different field angles
- Multi-channel matched optical path lengths
- Laser alignment system to maintain boresite during flight
- Removable filters in flight
- Modular design

Single-Channel Aft Optics Paraxial Raytrace

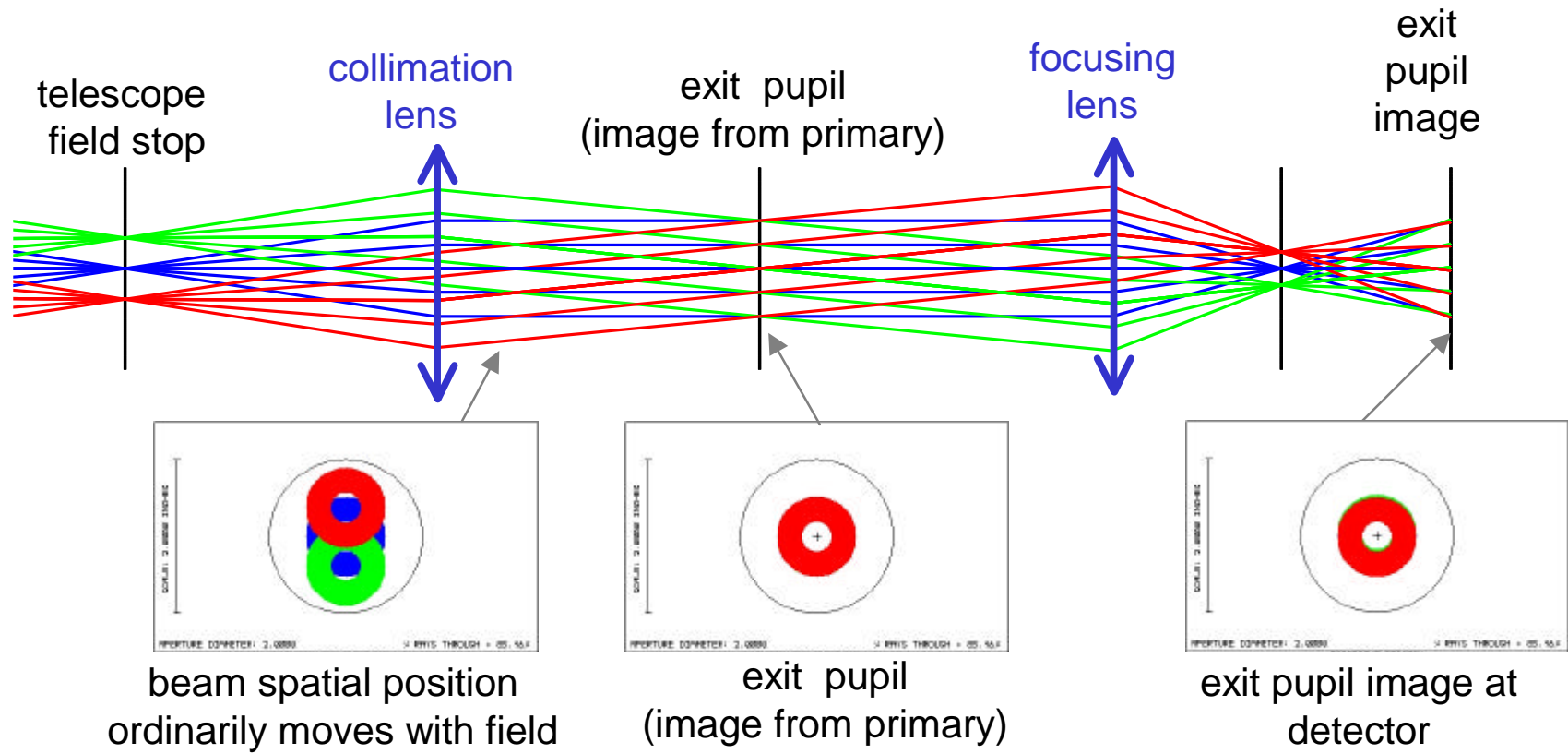
Three Input fields to telescope:

Blue = 0.0 mrad

Red = 0.5 mrad x 5 for illustration

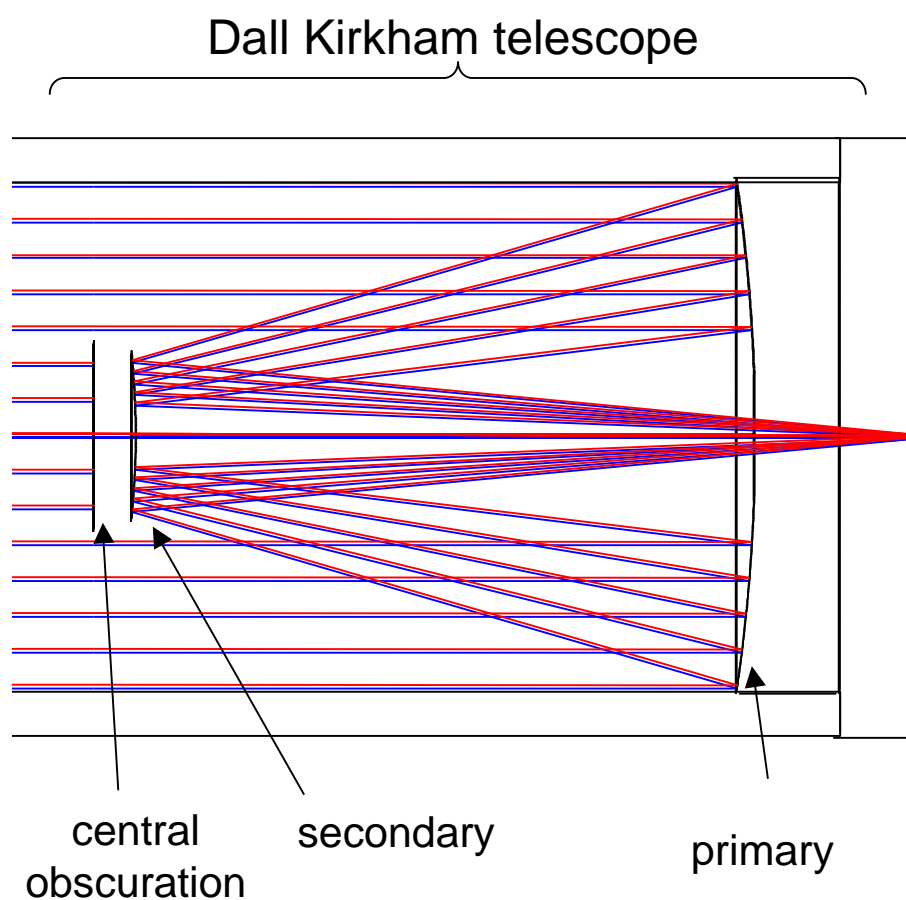
Green = -0.5 mrad x 5 for illustration

desired image relay
stable image at detector

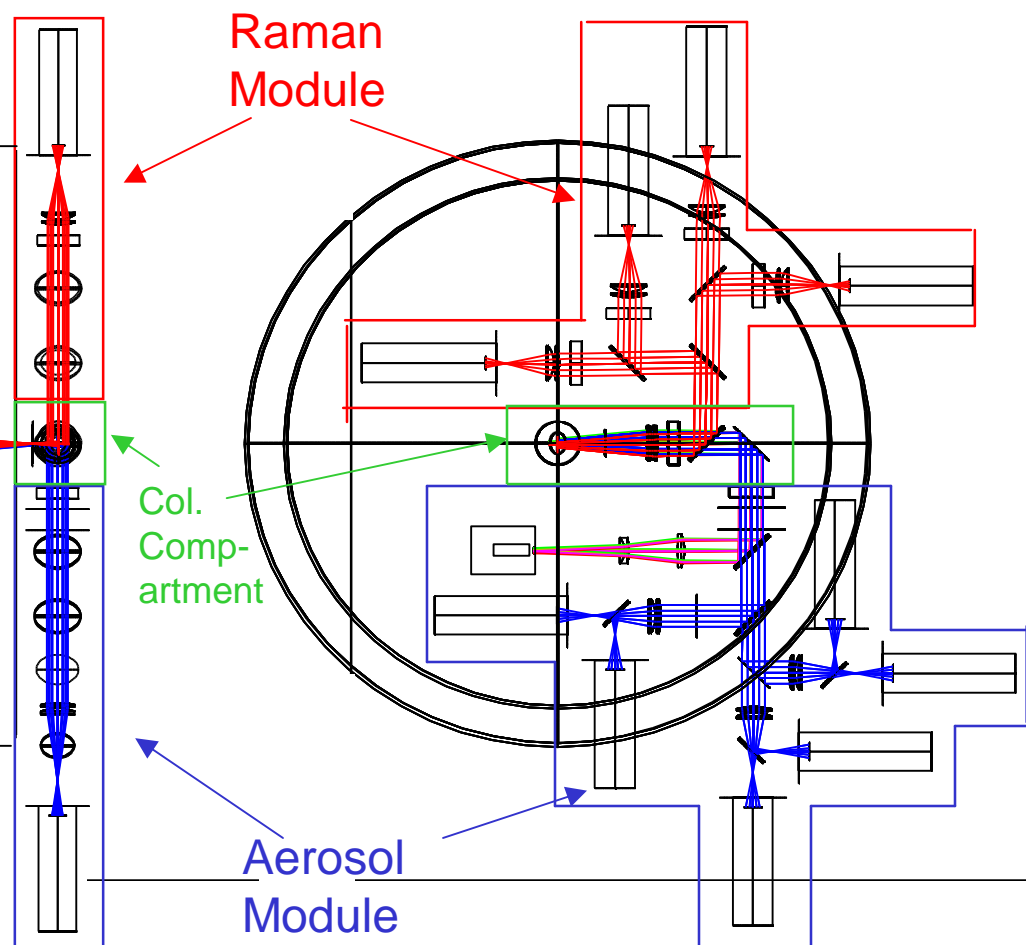


RASL Receiver: Geometrical Raytrace Model

SIDE VIEW



END VIEW



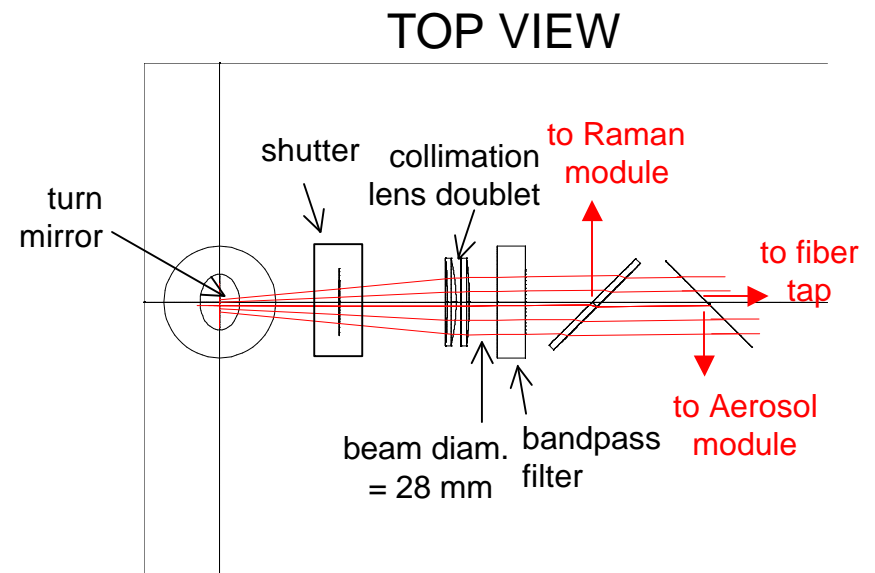
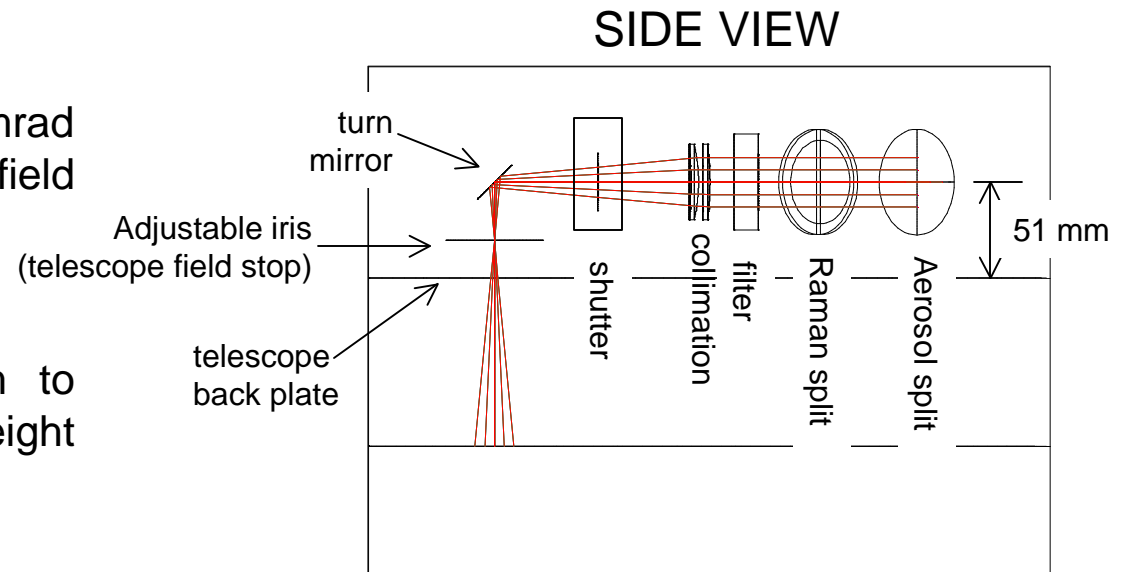
Collimation Compartment Raytrace

- Field of view from 0.2 to 1 mrad obtained by adjustable iris at field stop

- Focus adjustment from 2 km to infinity by changing optic axis height with specially designed spacers

- Collimation < 14 mrad for most extreme telescope field angles (+/- 0.5 mrad) to obtain > 92% transmission through 0.2 nm nm bandpass filters

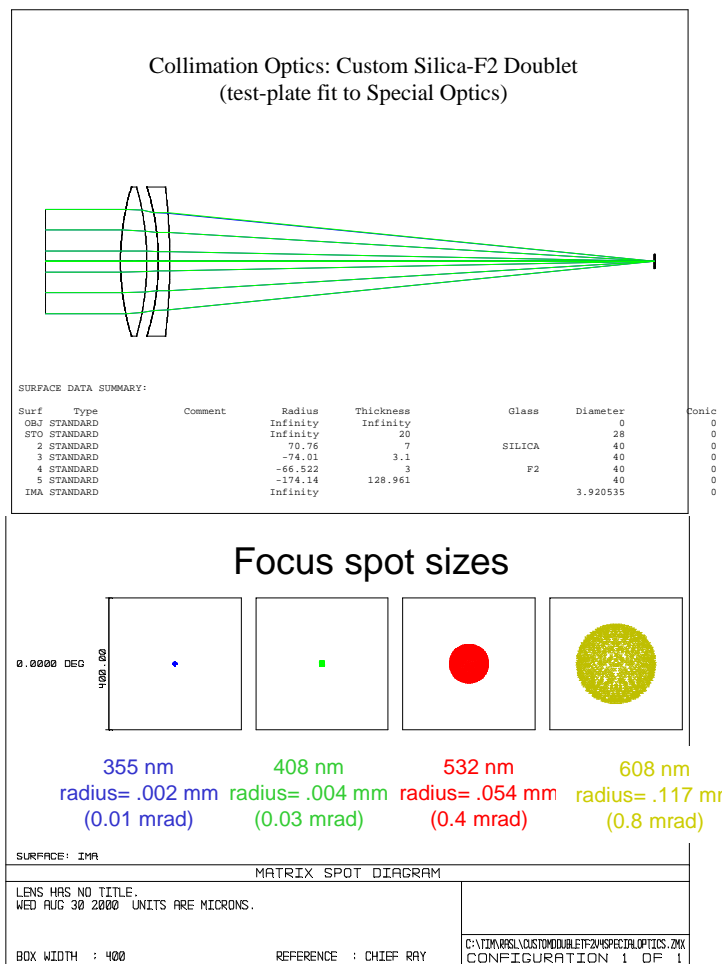
- Light can be directed into three different locations: 1) Raman module 2) Aerosol/Alignment Module 3) Spectrometer/etalon fiber interface



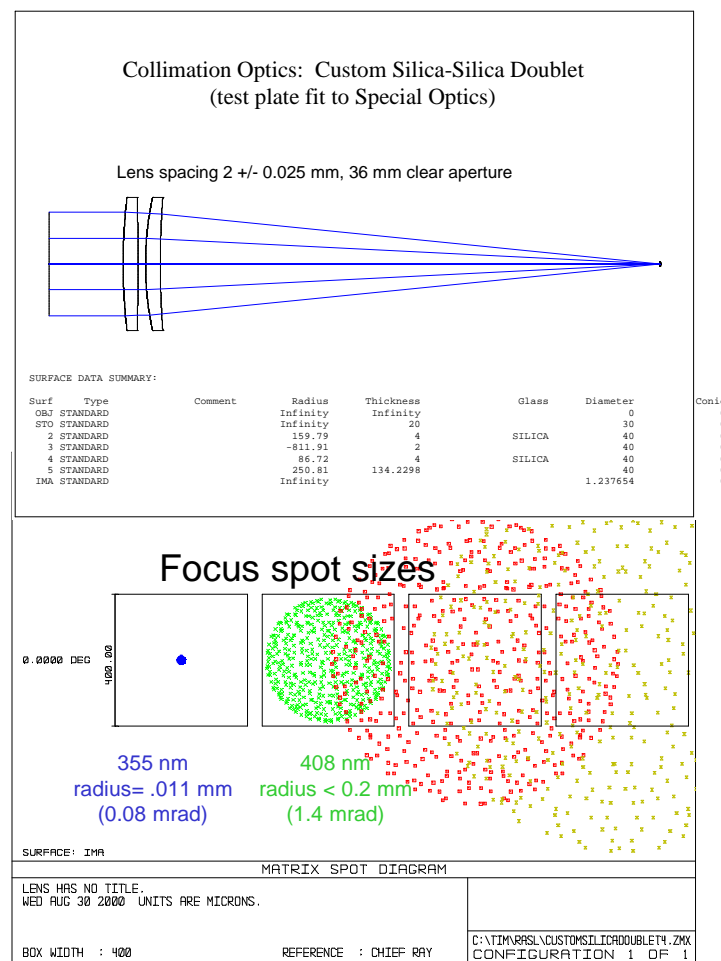
Custom RASL Collimation Optics: Spot Size Performance

Two different 140 mm focal length doublets

Option 1: Silica-F2 doublet

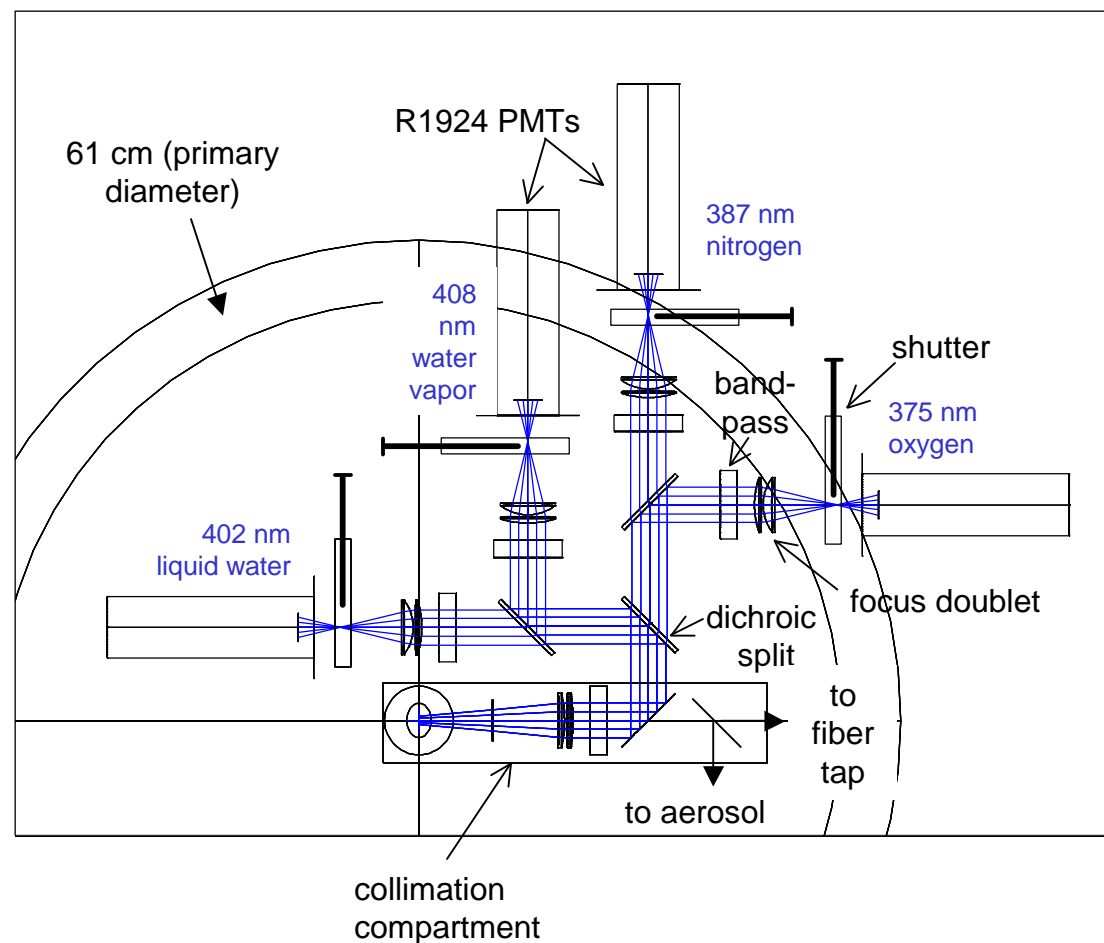


Option 2: Fused silica doublet



RASL Raman Module Raytrace Detail

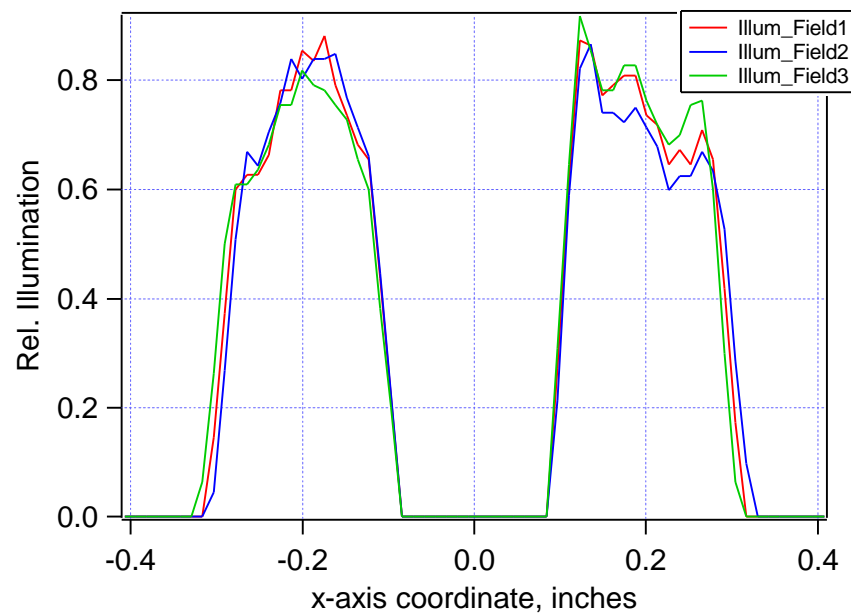
- Dichroic mirrors used to separate H₂O vapor, H₂O liquid, Oxygen, and Nitrogen wavelengths
- High performance bandpass filters used to isolate spectral line of interest
- Custom focusing optics designed to image the telescope exit pupil onto the PMT surface



Raytrace Simulation Raman PMT image

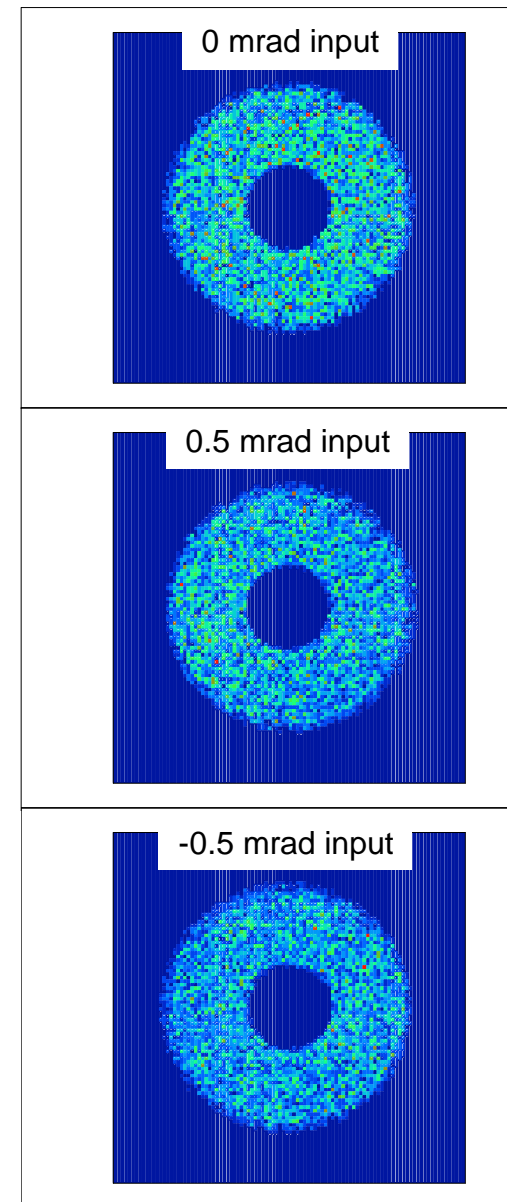
0, +/- 0.5 mrad input fields to telescope

X-axis illumination plots



Spatial movement of image is minimized for extreme ray angle fields

2-D Images at Detector



RASL Aerosol/Alignment Module Raytrace Detail

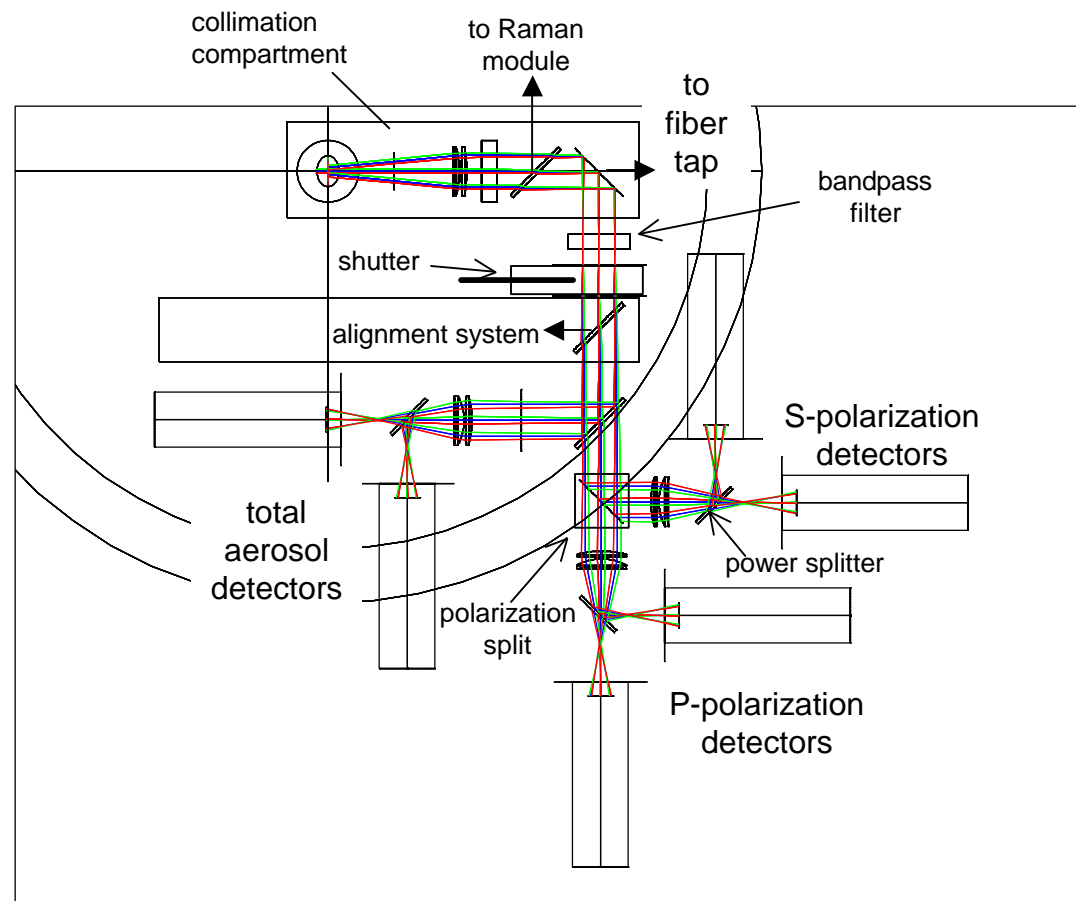
- High performance bandpass filter first used to isolate 355 nm light

- Fraction of light then split off for alignment system

- Remaining light then divided into three polarization channels: 1) total 2) P-state 3) S-state

- Two PMTs are used for each channel to maximize dynamic range

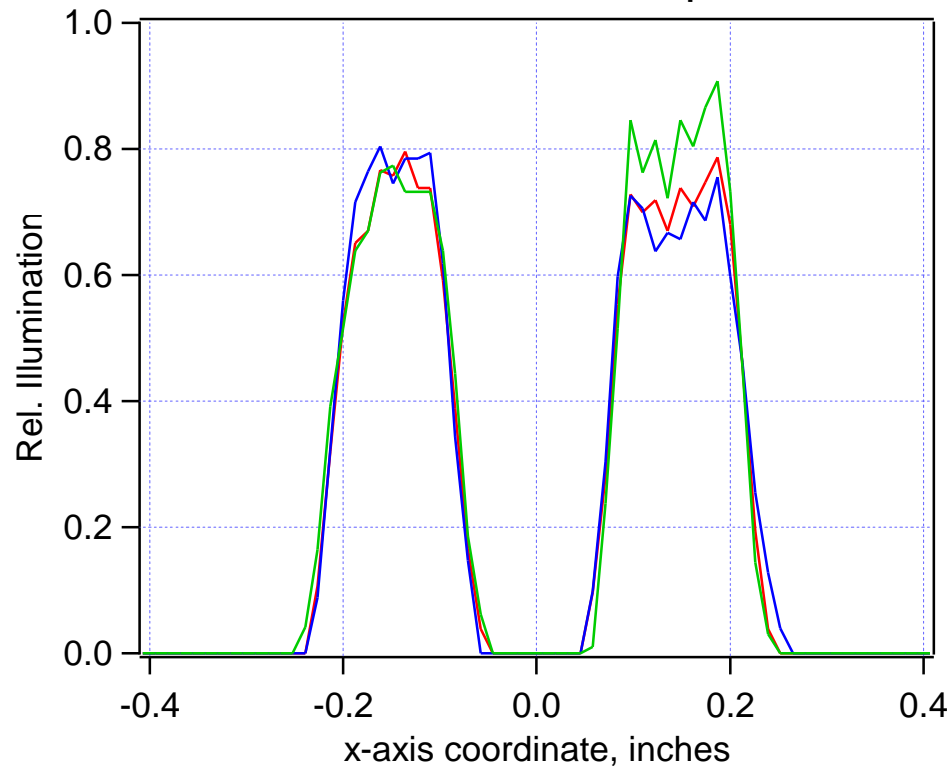
- Custom focusing optics designed to image the telescope exit pupil onto the PMT surface



Raytrace Simulation Aerosol PMT image

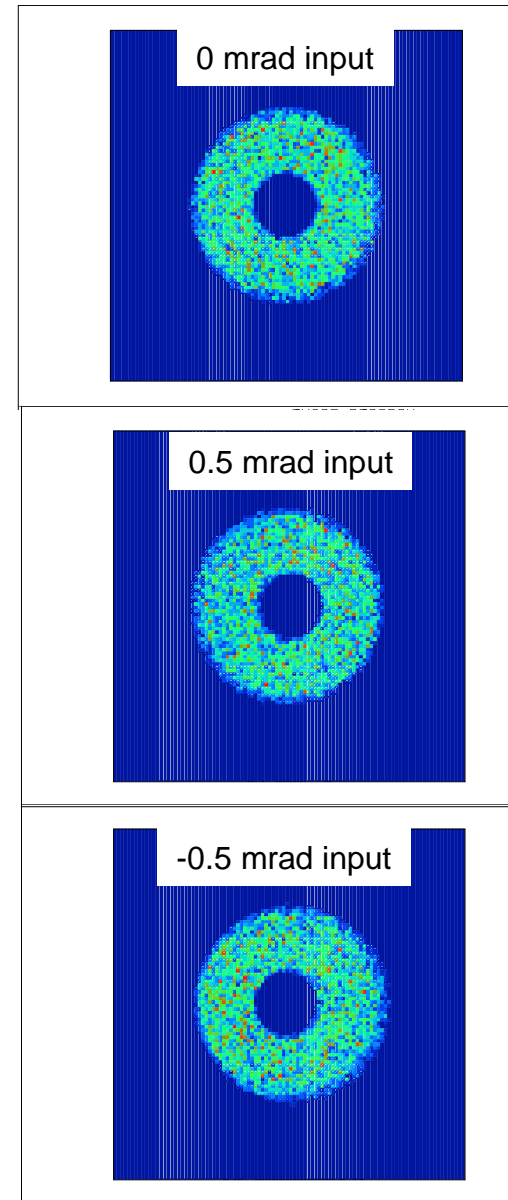
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X-axis illumination plots



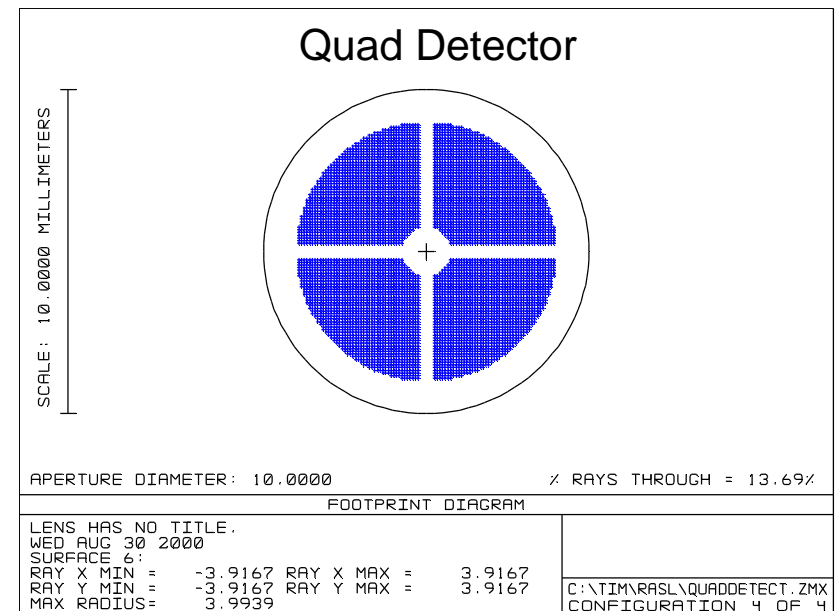
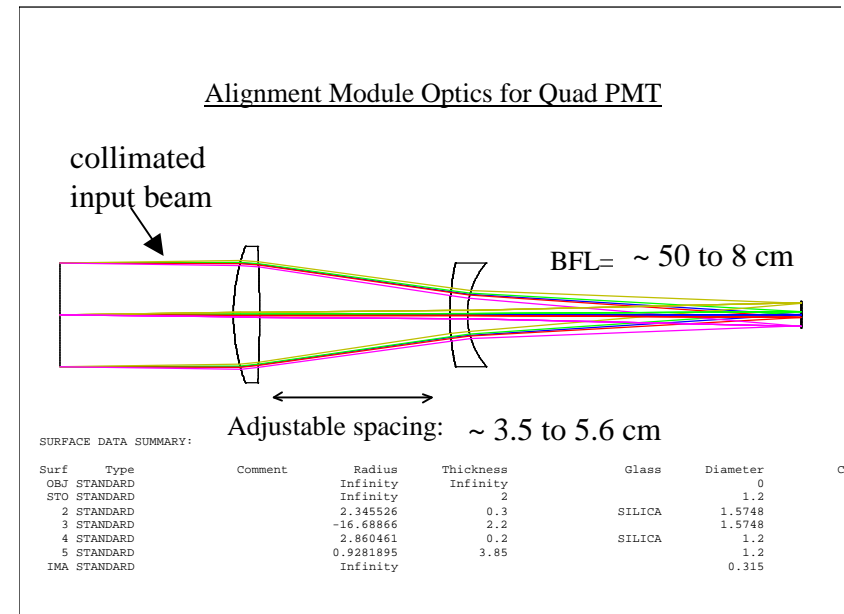
Spatial movement of image is minimized for extreme ray angle fields

2-D Images at Detector



RASL Alignment System

- 355 nm light is imaged from telescope field stop to quad detector
- Movement of bore-site translates laser spot movement across detector quadrants
- Bore-site laser position can then be determined and corrected with active feedback to motorized transmit mirror
- Variable lens spacing to change magnification by 5x thus maximum field angle can be adjusted from 0.2 to 1 mrad
- Adaptable for two different configurations: 1) Quad PMT 2) Quad fiber bundle



RASL Aft Optics: current status

- Aft optics design complete for base-line Raman and Aerosol measurement channels; 3-D multi-channel geometrical ray-trace model used to analyze optical properties of all measurement channels
- Design addresses the criteria established for high performance Raman and Aerosol measurements
- All custom lens doublets for base-line measurement channels are currently being fabricated by Special Optics, Inc. with expected delivery in two months
- All dichroic splitters, power splitters, and polarization optics have been specified and are on order with expected delivery in Q4
- Alignment system design currently in process, optics to be purchased by by end of Q3, delivery expected by Q4